

NSC BRIEFING

5 August 1954

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1954 Yangtze River Flood Disaster

I. Unprecedented rainfall in Yangtze valley this spring and summer has caused one of worst floods of century.

A. Major disaster to food crops, and homes.

B. Peiping publicly says is successfully combatting flood conditions.

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A. Bad 1931 flood affected 100,000 square miles, 25,000,000 people, and did US \$1,290,000,000 damage.

B. Our belief that this year's damage to food crops must be comparable to 1931, despite flood control activities.

IV. Area affected by flood is where most of China's rice is grown.

A. Loss expected to be millions of tons

DOCUMENT NO. 5
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. X
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
AUTH: 1880
DATE 2010 REVIEWER: 2010

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Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000300050017-1

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- B. Will offset excellent North China harvest.
- C. Will significantly increase regime's financial and food problems, and reduce supply available for export.

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000300050017-1